



US Army Corps of Engineers®

New York District

Former Raritan Arsenal, NJ

FACT SHEET

Jan 2007

DESCRIPTION:

Raritan Arsenal occupied approximately 3,200 acres and was bounded by Woodbridge Avenue and the Raritan River between Mill Road and Clearview Avenue in Edison, New Jersey. It was about 20 miles southwest of New York city. The arsenal operated from 1917 to 1963. Its primary missions were the transshipment and storage of ordnance, but the Arsenal also renovated and salvaged ordnance. In addition, it stored, modified, and shipped military vehicles. Prior to its transfer, the Letterkenny Army Depot cleaned the site. Some areas were so contaminated, however, that they were fenced, and it was recommended that their use be restricted. The northern portion of the site is currently occupied by Middlesex County College, Thomas Edison Park, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Raritan Center. The southern portion of the site has not been developed since the arsenal closed.

AUTHORIZATION/PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The former Raritan Arsenal is being investigated under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites. The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 authorized that program.

Corps investigations of the former arsenal concluded that conventional, high explosive ordnance and hazardous and toxic waste (HTW) contamination are present. As significant health and safety threats were identified, they have been addressed. For example, as conventional ordnance was found, it was removed. In addition, the remediation of the HTW area with the highest priority, the baseball field on the campus of Middlesex County College was completed in April 1995; several landfills containing buried drums was completed in 1998; and Area 12/Area 18C Drum Disposal Areas 1 thru 4, the ramp area in the vicinity of Buildings 255 and 256 was completed in summer of 2003. Current activities include indoor air quality evaluations of up to 58 buildings (including two daycare centers and one school) potentially impacted by contaminated groundwater and ordnance removal actions completed in Area 11.

STATUS:

Most known conventional ordnance contamination has been removed. Investigations of the former chemical warfare materiel disposal site have been concluded. In August 2001, ordnance removal action was started in areas 11 and 12, however substantially more ordnance than expected was discovered and in November 2001 work was suspended due to a lack of funds. Ordnance removal in Area 11 was completed in FY 06 and a digital geophysical mapping survey of Area 12 was awarded

STATUS: (continued)

Construction support was provided at the Beechwood LLC parcel next to Middlesex County College in the Spring of 2006. Work War I practice bombs were recovered and the Corps took custody of any ordnance recovered at this property. Additional ordnance removal of area 12 is planned for 2007.

The regulator has approved a site wide Groundwater Monitored Natural Attenuation report, however an indoor air vapor intrusion pathway analysis is required to be evaluated. Since indoor air vapor intrusion is a new field of environmental study, the Corps submitted an evaluation proposal to the NJDEP in 2003 and 2004. The indoor air pathway has led to evaluation of numerous (up to 60) buildings with sub slab and indoor air building sampling for volatile organic compounds. In addition, a pilot test remedial system was installed at 165 Fieldcrest Avenue (daycare center). Indoor air samples have also been collected at buildings associated with groundwater areas of concern 2, 6, 8 and 10 to evaluate the potential impact of a groundwater plume on these properties. Finally a Base Ecological Risk Assessment is being performed to determine if any ecological risk as occurred at the site.

Current issues:

- Continue an indoor air quality evaluations and monitoring.
- Perform treatability study of volatile organic groundwater contamination from DOD related plumes. Determine the best method to clean of Area of Concern 2.
- Finalize the Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment report and perform a Human Health Risk Assessment.

Future planned activities:

- Obtain Concurrence on HTW RI Conclusions and Recommendations for area specific no-further action requests, as well as groundwater remedial action workplans.
- Prepare a Groundwater Remedial Action Workplan for AOCs 2, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 10.
- Continue an indoor air quality evaluation of all remaining groundwater AOCs.

PROJECT COST:.....

Estimated Federal Cost	\$89,510,000
Estimated Non-Federal Cost	\$0
Total	\$89,510,000

CONTACT:

James T. Moore, Project Manager, (732) 435-0079